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GEORGE F. HENSHALL, MANAGER

SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 1908

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR AGITATION.

Strike, for the iron is hot. Now is the time—at the Atlantic fleet's coming, staying and going—for Hawaii to join in the loud chorus of the mainland, calling for the retention of the great armada in the Pacific. A short but pointed article in the San Francisco News Letter asks for Hawaii's influence in favor of that object. Captain and Congressman Hobson raises his voice like a syren to keep the fleet in this ocean, giving the nation warning that, until the Panama canal brings about facility of concentrating protective strength in either ocean, the withdrawal of the battleships from the Pacific will be fraught with great peril. Former Governor Pardee of California, in a recent contribution to the News Letter on "The Panama Canal as a Factor in Peace and War," says:

Over across the Pacific from us lies Japan, which, since it whipped Russia, seems almost all the time to be belligerently disposed toward us. Should a war break out between this country and Japan (which God forbid!) this western coast of the United States, after the Philippines and Hawaii, will be the object of Japanese attack. If at that time the Panama Canal be not open, it will be necessary to send to the Pacific by a long and hazardous voyage, through the Straits of Magellan, those of our warships which are in the Atlantic. With the Canal open, our navy may be concentrated in the Pacific in one-third of the time that would now be required. Under present conditions, our country requires, in order to prevent war or to carry it to a quick and successful issue, if it be forced upon us, a great and powerful navy in the Atlantic and another in the Pacific. The opening of the canal will, without the building of another ship, virtually increase the strength of our navy three times, because it will permit of a quick concentration, either in the Atlantic or the Pacific, of the battleships we may, at that time, have. One ship will, therefore, then be able to do three times the work it can now do to prevent war or to defeat an enemy in case of war.

Another writer gives cogent reasons for leaving the Atlantic at the protection of the vessels now there together with those being added right along to their number. Upon the Atlantic coast are the battleships Iowa, Massachusetts, Indiana, Idaho, Mississippi and New Hampshire—the last three just out of the shipyards. There are also on the eastern seaboard the armored cruisers New York and Brooklyn, of old type, and the big Montana and North Carolina, improvements on the Washington and Tennessee. Then four battleships more powerful than any we have afloat are now building on the Atlantic side—the Michigan and the South Carolina, larger and heavier armed than any of the Pacific fleet, and the other two the monster 20,000 ton Delaware and her sister ship. Moreover, Congress has just provided for two more great battleships of the Delaware type. It is further pointed out that in smaller craft and torpedo boats the Atlantic coast is even better provided than the Pacific, having also four double turret and three single turret coast defense monitors.

From all this it is argued that the plain destiny of the new Atlantic fleet to grow rapidly with the addition of the newest and most powerful warships demolishes the objection to transferring the big fleet, which has arrived in the Pacific, on the score that it leaves no Atlantic fleet. The writer whose facts have just been quoted concludes his article in the following strain:

Every military student, every far-seeing statesman, every man of common sense, appreciates the need of retaining the present large fleet in the Pacific, which is obviously to be the scene of the world's next great naval struggles. Our interests are so bound up with those of European countries that possibility of a war with them is extremely remote. It is not so in the Pacific. This nation is the bulwark of the white race against the awakening Orient. In the Pacific is the location of a powerful fleet. To withdraw the fleet from the Pacific now, or at any time in the future, would be to commit an unpardonable military blunder.

THE WATER PROBLEM.

A valued correspondent voices a complaint that is loud and general in the district of Honolulu regarding the insufficiency of the water supply, as well as the objectionable quality of a considerable proportion of the water supplied. For a period from beyond where living memory extends, this has been a perennial grievance or at least one cropping up every year that brings a season of drought, and there are few years without a dry spell long enough to affect the reservoirs. Honolulu ought to have had an ample supply of pure water at least a quarter of a century ago, and one devised to admit of ready expansion at small expense keeping pace with the growth of population. Probably the chief reason of slow progress toward such an end lies in the frequent changes of government, whereby each succeeding one of the many men of many minds handling the water proposition condemned or ignored the plans of his predecessors. Some improvements have been prevented at times by the fact that bids for work exceeded

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the amount appropriated, while the appropriations were very apt to have been cut down by the legislature from estimates made by engineers.

In fact the cross purposes in operation have been almost infinite. Thus a well was sunk which tapped a copious vein of pure artesian water, but for many months nothing was done to furnish the supply to the public until a great peril overtook the city in the cholera visitation of 1895. More recently a high level pump was bought at big cost, only to be stored away in idleness for years until this day. Its installation would have done a great deal to prevent the present dearth of water.

However, it is now promised that with the completion of the large Nuanu reservoir next year there will be an end to periods of water scarcity in Honolulu. Not only is there permanent relief in prospect as to quantity, but it is expected that there will be a head of water capable of generating electric power sufficient to pump enough artesian water for all the houses in Honolulu. By the way, as illustrating previous remarks, this great reservoir or something equally as good was recommended to the government in high priced reports of civil engineers so many years ago as to make the fact ancient history. If we are all to have artesian water, there is no need of the filtration plant—another proposition of comparative antiquity.

Our correspondent is somewhat irrelevant in his remarks where he brings in the county supervisors. The county government has nothing to do with the water supply.

THIRTY-SIX-MILLIONS FOR SUGAR CROP

EDWARD POLLITZ, THE SAN FRANCISCO CAPITALIST, VISITING THE PLANTATIONS—HE LOOKS FOR HIGHER PRICES NEXT YEAR THAN THE GOOD FIGURES THIS YEAR—FINE RECORD OF HAWAIIAN SUGAR STOCKS IN SAN FRANCISCO.

HILLO, June 18.—Edward Pollitz, the San Francisco broker who handles more Hawaiian sugar stocks than any other man in the United States, returned to Hillo yesterday from Hutchinson plantation. The first thing he wanted to know was the price of sugar and, upon finding that beet was quoted yesterday below cane in New York, he said:

"This is the beginning of the fruit season and naturally the American market should be independent of that of Europe, and higher than there, for two months to come. The islands have done well this year, splendidly, but I look for even higher prices for 1909 than you have had in 1908."

"Hawaiian sugar stocks have made a record for themselves in San Francisco as good and safe dividend paying investments. The earning value of real estate has been destroyed since the fire and San Francisco's local securities are not nearly as good as they used to be. In fact there are very few that are paying dividends. Your sugar stocks are about the only ones which can be regarded as safe income payers. After the fire they made a record. We got all the sugar stocks under one roof where they were traded in and cash was promptly forthcoming for every share that was sold. We needed the money then and Hawaii furnished it."

"For this year's sugar crop, after deducting freight, the Hawaiian plantations will receive \$36,000,000. This must do good to the islands and aid in their development. For next year, in my opinion, there will be another \$36,000,000. Put one on top of the other and there is a big lump of money that has to be used in some way to save

something, and Hawaii must benefit by it. "Oh, why don't you improve those four miles of road on the other side of the volcano? You must have better roads if you want people to come here."—Hawaii Herald.

HULA, VAUDEVILLE AND WRESTLING

Like a two-ringed circus or a section of Coney Isle transplanted from New York to Honolulu, the Hawaiian Midway opens with a flourish of brass bands and Hawaiian music, and in a glory of red, white and blue electric lights tonight.

Between Alakea and Richards streets an avenue of light will stretch and on the Midway, just above the Sailor's Home, will be a double attraction.

For half a dollar, or seventy-five cents if reserved seats are desired, the crowd will enjoy a select vaudeville, ancient Hawaiian hula dances, the Kaula Glee Club, brass band, singers, artists, warblers, whistlers, other experts in entertainment and a living picture of the Kilauea volcano in activity.

For twenty-five cents, or half a dollar, those so inclined may wax enthusiastic over an exciting wrestling carnival in which champions of Japan and Hawaii will meet. The management will pay \$30 to anybody who will throw five men.

Promptly at 8 o'clock the big show begins and men of the battleships Maine and Alabama and the cruiser St. Louis will be there with the townfolks.

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